

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

The Division proposes to amend its regulations under the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E, ss. 7 and 12 and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 3. The Division describes the substance of the proposed actions as amendments to regulations found at

1) 130 CMR 501.000 (MassHealth: General Policies) and 650.000 (Insurance Partnership)

To comply with the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority regulations requiring all Massachusetts residents to have health insurance that meets minimum creditable coverage, MassHealth is revising the definition of Basic Benefit Level. This change ensures that MassHealth will only provide premium assistance for employer-sponsored health plans that meet the minimum creditable coverage standard.

In addition, MassHealth is revising the regulations to remove references to billing and enrollment intermediaries. These groups are no longer involved in the Insurance Partnership Program.

It is anticipated that these amendments will not go into effect before October 15, 2008.

2) 130 CMR 424.000 (Podiatrist)

The amended regs will codify MassHealth policy eliminating the life and safety requirement for provision of all podiatry services. Podiatry services must still be medically necessary, per 130 CMR 450.204.

It is anticipated that these amendments will not go into effect before October 31, 2008.

All persons desiring to submit data, views, or arguments concerning these proposed actions may submit them in writing to the Medicaid Director, EOHHS, One Ashburton Place, Room 1109, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, or e-mail them to masshealthpublicnotice@state.ma.us. E-mailed comments should contain the sender's name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Comments will be accepted through September 26, 2008.

All persons desiring to review the current draft of the proposed actions may go to www.mass.gov/masshealth/proposedregs or request a copy in writing or in person from the MassHealth Publications Unit, 600 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111.

The Division may adopt a revised version of the proposed actions taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to the Division's attention.

By Order of the Division of Medical Assistance

TOM DEHNER, MEDICAID DIRECTOR

September 5, 2008